

John 17:1-5

We tend to think of **eternal life** in rather limited dimensions. We think of its duration (forever – death is not final) and of its location (with God, perhaps in heaven) and perhaps enjoying future sinlessness. Oh, and being forgiven. On a good day we might extent that to “being with Christ”. In our text today we have Jesus praying about a wonderful dimension of eternal life: That is, God indeed sharing with believers, through union with Christ, that beautiful thing which Isaiah 42:8 says belongs exclusively to the divine being: *Glory!*

Here's where we're going
 today

Quick flight, bird's-eye view of John 17			
The 3 Great Words in John 17		The 4 Great Doctrines in John 17	
Glory	vv1-5	Salvation	vv1-5
Kept	vv6-19	Preservation	vv11-16
One	vv20-26	Sanctification	vv17-19
		Glorification	vv20-26

God’s glory may be said to be “heavy” or “weighty”; the Hebrew word *kavod* (*glory*) literally means “heavy or burdensome”; Most often, the Scriptural usage of *kavod* is figurative (e.g., “heavy with sin” on the negative side), But when it speaks positively we get the idea of the moral and spiritual “weightiness” of a person who is *honorable, impressive, or worthy of respect.*

Our Roadmap to Glory

Let's begin with a story of terrible tragedy. Let's read **Romans 3:19-23**, focusing our attention on the tragedy of the human race, in our father Adam and in us his children, in v23. What does Paul say here is mankind's ultimate problem, in relationship to God's design? What has sin done to us? God designed Adam in and for glory. But in Adam we've come up short of glory, the glory of God (see v11-19 – mankind has become a moral featherweight boxer! We have lost our moral and spiritual *gravitas* – *no glory!*)

Return now to John 17 and v1-5. The two main themes that jump out at us are **glory** and **eternal life**. Now don't miss this: Jesus and the Father see a necessary connection between those two qualities and modes of being. Loss of glory (Romans 3:23) is connected to the absence of eternal life. Conversely, glory is connected inexorably to eternal life! But how do we obtain it?!

v2, The words, **You gave Him authority over all flesh (all people)**, indicate that Jesus’ prayer request was in accordance with the Father’s plan. The Father had ordained the rule of the Son over the earth (cf. Psalm. 2). This comes in stages. Clearly the kingdom of Christ, the millennial kingdom is not yet here where the physical world is free of Satan and brought into the beauty of the kingdom reign of the Son of David upon the 2nd Coming. The exercise of the authority of the Son comes in stages.

So the Son has already been given three things in regard to this authority in v2:

1) The authority to judge (John 5:27), 2) to take up His life (10:18), and 3) to **give eternal life to all those** whom the Father gave Him. This last is the same authority as exercised in the Great Commission.

(**Five times** in this prayer Jesus referred to His own as those the Father gave Him (17:2, 6 [twice], 9, 24).)

v3, **Eternal life**, as defined here by Jesus, involves the experience of knowing the only true God through His Son (cf. Matt. 11:27). It is a personal relationship of intimacy which is continuous and dynamic. It is eternal and not temporal.

Now look at 2 Timothy 2:10, like Jesus does in 17:2-3, Paul connects salvation/eternal life to the believer themselves obtaining **eternal glory**. **How?!** Salvation places us *in* Jesus Christ. And when we are *in* Him, His immutable, divine glory is ours because we are *in union* with Him!

The Glorification of the believer

John 1:14 – Matthew 17:1-8 - 1 Corinthians 2:9 – 2 Corinthians 3:18 – Philippians 3:21 – 1 John 3:2 – Eph 5:27 – 1 Thess 2:12

The purpose and mode of being of eternal life is not merely duration of life (forever), but an utterly transformed state of being, body and soul, in which, because of our union with the Son, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God, we ourselves will be glorified. We will indeed share in God's glory because we will be in union with God, through Christ Jesus, the Lord of Glory!

Take a look at Jesus' intention in his prayer for the disciples (and beyond to us by our believing in their gospel message and doctrine) in John 17:22!

Return to v3 and ponder this: To know the only true and living God, with and through the Son, Jesus Christ, is to *have eternal life* and with it, the present transformation into spiritual glory and the future and eventual blessed hope, to be changed into the full splendor of the Son when we are with Him.

The tragedy of Romans 3:23 is reversed in Christ! Christ obtains all the praise of the saints because of what He has graciously done for us and will do to and in us, who are in Him simply by faith! God's glory shall be our glory, in the Son, the Lord of Glory! All glory to God in the highest! *Soli Deo Gloria! To God alone the glory!*